

Executive Summary:

Relaxing ownership restrictions on multiple media outlets = BAD. Please protect the public's interest in its public airwaves.

Hello FCCC public servants,

I am taking a moment to write you because I care about democracy and the vital question of having as many different *DISPARATE* owners of mass communications as is feasible. I do not believe our democracy right now is as healthy as we are able to make it. An important aspect of this is the ownership of the *PUBLIC* airwaves. We have over the years forgotten that the airwaves are owned by the public and that the FCC was formed to protect the public interest in the airwaves as a tool and instrument of the democratic way of life.

Please do not further erode the restrictions on concentrated private ownership over public information channels. Please support more diversity of ownership and give democracy a better chance to have major outlets of information that differ substantially from one

another in focus or coverage. We already are practically smothered in an ocean of big money media giving us "infotainment" as if this country had no serious questions in front of it. I submit to you that concentrated ownership of news outlets and the overwhelming dominance of advertising dollars motivated by shareholder interests is damaging to our democratic way of life. I further submit to you that this is *NOT* a question of ideology about big government getting in the way of the free market. This is rather an issue of *PUBLIC* goods (i.e. the airwaves, the highway and transit systems, public health and soon) versus the profit motive being misunderstood and allowed to exceed its proper function within a democracy. Please recognize that there are such things that benefit our democracy (besides the military and police) which private industry does an inferior or non-existent job of providing. Giving further permission for unrestricted ownership of multiple media outlets sends the wrong signal and heads explicitly in the wrong direction of democratic values and a healthy public marketplace of ideas.